**Dan O'Neal, Chair**

Dan O'Neal, a member since 2003. He is on the Board of Directors of The Greenbrier Companies (GBX), a publicly traded railroad car leasing and manufacturing company. He has owned and operated transportation and software businesses. Dan has actively participated in efforts to gain private and public sector support for improved freight transportation infrastructure. He is a member of the Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council and the Cascade Land Conservancy. Prior to joining a law firm in 1980 he was Chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission. He had been Transportation Counsel to the Senate Commerce Committee chaired by Senator Warren Magnuson.

**Elmira Forner, Vice-Chair**

Elmira contributes experience in both local and state government having served as a Planning Commissioner for the City of Kent, as well as serving as State Representative from the 47th District. While in the legislature she served five years on the Transportation Committee. Elmira was appointed to the Commission by Governor Locke in 2000 and re-appointed by Governor Gregoire in 2006. During her time on commission she served five years on the Transportation Permitting and Accountability Committee and two years on the Transportation Performance Audit Board. She is presently active in transportation issues in North Central Washington.

**Bob Distler, member**

Bob came to the Commission with an economics background and a career in transportation management, having worked in marketing, planning, operations and government and industry affairs. He has consulted for clients worldwide, including airlines, railroads and cruise lines. Since moving to Orcas Island in 1992, Bob has been involved with Washington State Ferries and San Juan County government, focusing on transportation and growth management issues. Bob was appointed to the Commission in 2005.

**Richard Ford, member**

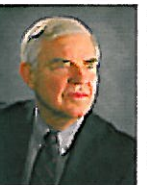
Richard contributes port and legal experience to the Commission. He is senior counsel of the international law firm K&L Gates LLP, and spent more than 30 years in public service, retiring in 1985 as Executive Director of the Port of Seattle. Richard has also served on a number of key boards and commissions, including Premera (Blue Cross), Casey Family Programs, the Climate Change Transportation Work Group - a sub-committee to the Governor's Climate Advisory Team, Governor's Growth Strategies Commission, Washington State Marine Oversight Board, Citizen Advisory Panel on Council Elections, and the RTA Regional Outreach Committee. Richard was appointed to the Commission in 2004 and was reappointed in 2007.

**Carol Moser, member**

Carol's background as a City Councilwoman brings a local government perspective to the Commission. In addition to serving ten years on the Richland City Council, Carol was appointed to the Association of Washington Cities Board of Directors in 2002, and was a Board Member on the Municipal Research Services Center until accepting the appointment on the Commission. Her primary focus for the Council, however, was transportation. She served on the Regional Transportation Planning Organization for the Benton-Franklin-Walla Walla Policy Advisory Council, the Ben-Franklin Transit board, and served four years on the State's Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board. Carol also chaired the Three Rivers Community Roundtable Transportation Focus Group, and the Smart Growth/Livable Communities Committee.

**Philip Parker, member**

Philip brings a varied background to the Commission. He recently retired as a Journeyman Electrician and has taught in the electrical apprenticeship program. Philip has represented the Vancouver community on many boards with a recent focus on workforce development and transportation issues. Philip was appointed to the Commission in 2007.

**Dale Stedman, member**

Dale contributes significant experience to the Commission in traffic safety and other transportation related issues. Dale worked for the American Automobile Association in Spokane from 1951 until 1994, serving 12 years on the national AAA board of directors. Dale also has had 50 years involvement with the Spokane Area Good Roads Association, and the Washington State Good Roads and Transportation Association. He served as a committee chair of the Legislative-appointed Washington State Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation (1998-2000). He currently serves as a director of the Spokane Regional Transportation Council. Dale was appointed to the Commission in 2003 by Governor Locke.





# WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## Current Roles and Responsibilities

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The Washington State Transportation Commission provides a public forum for transportation policy development. It reviews and evaluates how the entire transportation system works across the state and issues the state's 20-year Transportation Plan. As the State Tolling Authority, the Commission sets tolls for state highways and bridges and fares for Washington State Ferries.

### Contact:

Reema Griffith, Executive Director  
360-705-7070

### Key Facts

- The Commission is a seven member body of citizens appointed by the Governor for six-year terms. The Secretary of the Washington State Department of Transportation and a representative from the Governor's Office are *ex officio* members of the Commission.
- As a public forum for transportation policy development, the Commission develops and issues a comprehensive and balanced 20-year statewide transportation plan that reflects the priorities of government and addresses local, regional and statewide needs. It proposes transportation policy for the state and coordinates state transportation planning with national transportation policy and with local/regional land use and transportation plans.
- The Commission conducts a statewide outreach program to gather input into state transportation policy, to promote transportation education, and to gain understanding of local and regional transportation needs and challenges. The Commission reports its findings in an annual report to the Governor and Legislature.
- The Commission is designated the State Tolling Authority and as such, sets all state highway and bridge tolls as well as setting fares for Washington State Ferries.
- Supplemental policy tasks assigned to the Commission by the Legislature include:
  - Oversight of the Transportation Innovative Partnership Program
  - Conducting a ferry user market survey every two years
  - Reviewing the long-range ferry system capital plan and operating strategies, and adopting ferry system pricing policies.
  - Naming state transportation facilities.

### Current Responsibilities in Detail

#### **Washington Transportation Plan**

Every four years, the Commission recommends to the Legislature a comprehensive and balanced statewide transportation plan. The plan must be consistent with the state's growth management goals and be based upon transportation policy goals adopted by the Legislature. The plan is required to reflect the priorities of government and address local, regional and statewide needs, including multimodal transportation planning.

### **State Ferry Fare Setting & State Highway Toll Responsibilities**

- The Commission is the state's tolling authority, setting tolls for the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, the SR 167 HOT Lanes pilot project, and any future toll facilities authorized on state owned facilities.
- The Commission reviews and adjusts the state ferry system fare schedule and adopts fare and pricing policies.
- The Commission reviews the long-range ferry system capital plan and operational strategies.

### **Policy Guidance**

The Commission offers policy guidance and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature in key issue areas including but not limited to:

- Transportation finance and funding.
- Preserving, maintaining, and operating the statewide transportation system.
- Transportation infrastructure needs.
- Transportation efficiencies that will improve service delivery and intermodal coordination and connectivity.
- Improved planning and coordination among transportation agencies and providers.
- Use of intelligent transportation systems and other technology based solutions.
- Climate change initiatives and the environmental impacts of transportation.

### **Public Involvement & Outreach**

The Commission conducts its public outreach program primarily through meetings held in both Olympia and localities throughout the state each year. Meetings held outside of Olympia focus on local and regional transportation issues and challenges, receiving information from local officials, public agencies, and other entities. In addition to regular meetings, the Commission convenes periodic regional forums to gather citizen input on various transportation issues.

### **Transportation Innovative Partnerships (TIP) Program**

The Commission may solicit concepts or proposals for eligible public-private partnership projects. In consultation with the Governor, the Commission may execute, reject or continue negotiations on proposed public-private partnership projects.

### **Accountability**

Consistent with developing a comprehensive and balanced statewide transportation plan, the Commission reviews and evaluates state and local transportation systems, assessing levels of integration and the ability of people and goods to be moved effectively and efficiently across the state. The determinations derived from this review and evaluation effort are reported to the Governor and Legislature each year.

### **Studies & Projects In Progress for the 2007-09 Biennium**

- Conducting a long-term ferry finance study.
- Conducting a ferry user market survey.

### **Studies & Projects Completed in the 2007-09 Biennium**

- Conducted a detailed analysis of tolling options for specific routes and structures, as a follow-up to the Commission's Comprehensive Tolling Study completed in 2006.
- Held a Regional Transportation Summit to address governance and funding for regional transportation needs in the Spokane area.